

February 12, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) called on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) again yesterday to reaffirm his support in blocking \$450 million in Recovery Bill (commonly referred to as the "Stimulus Bill") funding for a wind farm project in West Texas that plans to use turbines manufactured in China. Arcuri joined with several colleagues - both Democrats and Republicans - in December in sending a letter to the Secretary of Energy when news of this issue first came to light.

"As I've said before, the purpose of the Recovery Bill is to create and sustain jobs here at home, not fund manufacturing in China," **Arcuri said**. "I joined with Republicans and Democrats back in December to express our opposition to this project, and will continue the fight on behalf of our domestic jobs and businesses. If our country is to remain competitive in the global marketplace and break our dependence on foreign energy, we must focus our incentives on establishing a flourishing manufacturing base for renewable technologies here at home. Awarding Recovery Bill funds to projects that purchase products manufactured overseas, when we have the capabilities here at home, would run contrary to both the intent and the letter of the Recovery Bill."

In a letter dated February 11th, 2010, Arcuri again wrote to DOE Secretary Steven Chu urging him to reject the \$450 million request for Recovery Bill Funding made by As Green Inc. which is a joint venture between American and Chinese companies to build a \$1.5 billion wind farm in West Texas. A company in China would manufacture the wind turbines for the proposed project, which would receive substantial financing from the Chinese Development Bank and Chinese Export-Import Bank and, possibly, the central bank of China. Arcuri has opposed Recovery Bill funding for the project unless the turbines used are manufactured in the United States.

Last July, the General Electric Corporation received nearly \$700,000 in Recovery Bill funds through the DOE for a project to research wind turbine manufacturing processes at the company's Niskayuna, NY, facility.

Background:

- Arcuri supported the inclusion of Buy American provisions in the Recovery Bill to ensure that goods used in Recovery Act infrastructure projects are manufactured in the United States from domestic raw materials.
- Arcuri also a co-sponsor of the TRADE Act, H.R. 3012, a bill that would mandate trade pact reviews, establish standards, protect workers, and help restore congressional oversight of future trade agreements.
- On August 2nd, 2007, Arcuri has also testified before the House Committee on Ways and Means in support of legislation I have co-sponsored, H.R. 2378 - the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act, to address China's unbalanced trade practices and currency manipulation.
- On July 31st, 2007, Arcuri testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) on the importance of enforcing and strengthening U.S. trade laws to alleviate the adverse impact of foreign trade practices on domestic industries and workers and has written to President Obama to urge him to take a strong stand on this issue.

[Click here to read Arcuri's most recent letter to Secretary Chu sent on February 11, 2010.](#)

[Click here to read Arcuri's letter sent to Secretary Chu sent on December 1, 2009.](#)